

Partnership for Youth Transition System Model



“It is our hope that every youth that participates in our program will leave with a renewed sense of self and that they will be healthy, confident, capable, and empowered.” ~ Melanie Green

DESCRIPTION OF THE IDEAL YOUTH TRANSITION SYSTEM MODEL

The following is a written description developed by Melanie Green, who serves as a steering committee member to the Clark County Partnerships for Youth Transition (PYT) Grant. This written description is a compliment to a physical model developed by Melanie and Dawn Grosz, who also serves as a member of the PYT steering committee. The model is a re-creation of the ideas generated at the PYT Steering Committee's Strategic Planning Session that took place in May, 2003.

Using a serving tray as a base, Dawn and I sorted through a small supply of beads, balloons, ribbons, and other trimmings to construct a three-dimensional representation of Clark County Washington's vision for Youth Transition.

Three balloons rest on the outskirts of the design, representing celebration and the excitement we feel toward the opportunity to develop services for transition-aged youth. The outline of the system model is made up of 60 silver sequins and three silver stars. The sequins represent the 60 youth our system will serve at any given time. Each star represents one of the Transition Specialists that will be working with our youth. The stars are each outlined in a different color, representing the individuality each Transition Specialist will bring to the program.

Two blue dollar signs sit within the model, representing our Employment specialist and Job Developer. These two positions will be useful in assisting our youth achieve employment. Lumps of Play-Dough and large purple beads are scattered around the model, representing the various supports (friends, family, therapists, coaches, etc.) that our youth will bring with them. On the Play-Dough the different colors represent once again the individuality and variance in assets brought by each support.

Although we hope that none will arise, we know that complications come up in every situation. The black lumps of Play-Dough represent these difficulties. By planning ahead and acknowledging them, we hope to handle challenges effectively so that we can continue to move forward.

Every component of the model is linked to at least one other by a string of purple beads. These beads represent the communication and teamwork between all aspects of the program that will be essential to its success.

Finally, at the center of the model, is our Youth. This Play-Dough figure represents the young people we're so eager to serve. In the hair, color is used once again to represent qualities of individuality, this time focusing on diversity in culture, family, age, social background, and experience. The arms of our Youth are raised in triumph as a symbol of their accomplishment. It is truly my hope that every youth that participates in our program will leave with a renewed sense of self. They will be healthy, confident, capable, and empowered.